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Kerr

Dahlias

for

1947

It is Nationally Known  
the BEST are  
MICHIGAN GROWN

Kerr Dahlia Gardens

392 North Washington  
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

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## The Dahlia

Most regal of the summer's flowery host

The stately dahlias lift their lovely heads—

Pale yellows, russets, bronze-and-gold embossed,

Shell pinks, maroons, and flaming orange reds;

And wait, at last, the thin keen blade of frost

Still proud and tall—the garden's thoroughbreds.

—Jessie Wilmore Murton—

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-- 1947 --

## To Our Many Friends and Customers:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to friends and customers alike. It has been very gratifying to be able to find so many names in our order books, and many additional new ones, also the very fine letters received, especially on plant shipments.

It will be our sincere endeavor to sell strictly clean stock and true to name. We very much wish one and all could have visited our gardens. While the 1946 season was tough, it came through with fine roots and we can assure our trade they will be able to secure all their needs, roots and especially fine green plants, grown and prepared for shipping in excellent condition.

Our best effort will be put forth this season to deal with all customers as we would like to be dealt with.

Very sincerely,

Laurence R. Kerr



We Are Members of  
THE AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY  
THE OHIO STATE DAHLIA SOCIETY  
THE CENTRAL STATES DAHLIA SOCIETY  
THE BATTLE CREEK DAHLIA SOCIETY

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### Location of Our Gardens

From the center of the city of Battle Creek, go west on West Michigan Ave., (the main street) until you come to Washington Street; turn north, Pass Percy Jones Hospital and the Battle Creek Sanitarium, and go about five blocks, to 392 North Washington.

Telephone 4041

We invite you all to visit our gardens at any time, more especially when in bloom.

### KERR DAHLIA GARDENS

392 North Washington

Battle Creek, Michigan

DAHLIAS

Page Three

# General Description of Varieties of the WORLD'S BEST PRIZE-WINNING DAHLIAS

We specialize in dahlias that have a record of **WINNING PRIZES**; that are known to be vigorous, and have been thoroughly tested out in many sections of the United States.

Nearly every one of our dahlias has received a Certificate of Merit from the Trial Grounds at Storrs, Conn., East Lansing, Mich., Cincinnati, Ohio, or Fairmont, W. Va. That means a rating of at least 85 per cent.

## Healthy Dahlias

It is our policy—and we strictly adhere to it—that **NO** dahlia will grow in our gardens that shows **ANY** disease whatsoever. If a dahlia cost us a nice sum of money, it matters not if it is **NOT** healthy, it is dug up and burned at once. We never purchase any stock from a dahlia raiser if we know he allows diseased dahlias to grow in his gardens.

*"We grow a number of the very best  
And let, who will, raise all the rest."*

## Abbreviations

FD—Formal Decorative                      ID—Informal Decorative  
SC—Semi-Cactus      IC—Incurved Cactus      C—Cactus

- ALICE MAY** (I. D.), "Australia," 1939. Bloom 12x8. This pure waxy white flower is rightly called a "White Lord of Autumn." This tremendous bloom is beautifully formed, the petals folding all the way back to the stem. One flower of Alice May had three blue ribbons at the 1940 Cleveland Show—one ribbon for the best flowers in its class, one ribbon for the largest flower in the show, and the other ribbon for the most perfect bloom in the show. One of the greatest dahlias to date.  
.....Root \$1.25, Plant .75
- BEDFORD BEAUTY** IC (Frank) 1946. A distinctive and beautiful incurved cactus of delicate coloring. Color is a light amaranth pink with white around the center. Petals are evenly and narrowly rolled from base to tip. Size 6x3. Achievement Medal winner in 1943. On Eastern Honor Roll.....Root \$2.00, Plant 1.00
- BESS SMITH** (I. D.), "Anderson," 1943. Bloom 10x6, bush 5 ft. Pure white. Its petals are wavy. Stems 15 inches long, and very strong, holding flowers on side. It is an excellent keeper when cut. Won the Derrill W. Hart Gold Medal in 1941. On two Honor Rolls. Considered by many the best white. Root \$1.50, Plant .75
- BLUE MOON** (I. D.), "Johnson," 1941. Bloom 12x5. Lavender shading to lilac-purple at base. Strong stems. Heavy foliage. Another mammoth size dahlia. Achievement Medal and Honor Roll.....Root \$1.50, Plant .75
- BLUE RIVER** (F. D.), "Salem Dahlia Gardens." Bloom 11½x5, bush 4 ft. A blue French violet, the nearest to a blue dahlia that we have ever seen. It never fails to grow. It has won many prizes. Fine stems.....Root .60

**CALIFORNIA IDOL** (I. D.), "Success," 1935. Bloom 12x7, bush 5 ft. This giant yellow has a coast-to-coast record as a winner. At Boston it won the Achievement Medal as Best Undisseminated Dahlia. It is a fine grower with a deep flower of clear, glistening yellow, a true pastel shade. On Honor Roll. It can easily win as largest or best flower.....Root .65

**CARL G. DAHL** (I. D.), "Hillcrest," 1937. Bloom 13x6, bush 5½ ft. Graceful, although of tremendous size of rather loose or open formation. Color, apricot buff shaded old rose on reverse of petals. Won the award as Best Bloom in the show at New York, 1937, and the popular vote in the New York Botanical Gardens, 1936. Has won many times as largest in the show ..... Root 1.00

**CAPT. CEDARQUIST** (Frank 1943). Bloom 6x4, Bush 4 ft. Bright salmon orange, shading to a lighter tone at tips. A fine cut flower and exhibition variety. Plant .75

**CHEROKEE BRAVE** (I. D.), "Dahliadel," 1939. Bloom 11x6, bush 5½ ft. Blooms are a rich oxblood red that hold their color well in the sun. Has done exceptionally well throughout the country, and in the Mid-West is considered by many the outstanding red. The blooms can be grown to extra large size. Considered one of the best introductions. Bush growth strong and foliage heavy. EXCELLENT. ....Plant .75

**CLASS** (F. D.), "Salem," 1941. Bloom 12x6, bush 3½ ft. One of the largest sulphur yellow formal decorative dahlias to date. Grown up to 15 inches, petals fall back toward stem when fully out. Strong, straight stems hold flowers directly on top. Bush rugged....Root 1.50

**CLARA HOOK** (St. C.) "Wolbert-Wind," 1947. Bloom 11x5, bush 6 ft. The color is golden-yellow, lightly suffused with apricot on the outer petals. Winner of Derrill W. Hart Medal. Three Certificates of Merit, two Achievement Medals and on ALL three Honor Rolls. Won a number of blue ribbons. A free bloomer. .... Plant \$7.50

**COL. LITTLE** (Ambrose) I. D. or S. C., 1946. Classified in the East by Mr. Dudley as Informal and as a Semi-Cactus in the West by Col. Eddy. It will probably vary somewhat in form in different soils. Color: A brilliant fiery red on a yellow base. Size 10 to 11 by 5 to 6 inches. An Honor Roll Dahlia that has won many awards. ....Plant 2.00

**COLUMBIA** (S. C.), "Cuyahoga," 1942. Bloom 12 to 16 x 8 to 10, bush 5½ ft. Deep gold in center, shading to orange and peach pink, with a heavy sheen on the petals. Petals curl completely back to stem. Centers are high, pointed and always perfect. Blooms early to late. Two achievement Medals. On leading Honor Rolls. Prof. C. M. Brown, a veteran dahlia judge, says: "Columbia at East Liverpool was the finest all-round large flower it has ever been my privilege to see. Never before have I seen such depth.".....Root 2.00

**COMMANDO** (F. D.), "Peck," 1943. Bloom 12x5, bush 4½ ft. Color, a true phlox purple, really a clear shade of lavender. Stems very long and stiff, holds the bloom at proper angle. Extra fine bush and foliage. Achievement Medal. The finest lavender we have ever seen growing .....Root .75

**D-DAY** (F. D.), "Dixie," 1945. Bloom 7x4, bush 4½ ft. A medium sized variety of true pink. This fine florist's flower is also regarded as a challenger for honors held so long by Jersey's Beauty on the show tables. A very good keeper. Stems are cane-like and hold flowers facing the side. Excellent. On Honor Roll .....Root \$2.00, Plant 1.00

**DARCY SAINSBURY** (F. D.), "Australian." Bloom 10x5. A wonderful pure white, with excellent center, and the best of long, stiff stems. One of the best to come from Australia. It stands very high in the show room .....Root .85

**DEAN SHURTLEFF** (S. C.), "Rockley," 1942. Bloom 10x6, bush 4½ ft. Semi-Cactus, very large brilliant Crimson shading to an Oxblood Center. Stems are straight and stiff as steel—never droops even in bud—9 to 13 inches to first leaf bracket. The finest I had in my 1942 garden. Also winner of Achievement Medal—Certificate of Merit and mentioned on three Honor Rolls.....Plant 1.00

**DOUBLE DUTY** (F. D.), "Dixie," 1944. Bloom 7x4. Color, tyrian rose. Has excellent, long, strong stems. Several blooms were shipped 800 miles, and were perfect after the fourth day. Won the much coveted Leonard Barron trophy at New York. The front page cover of the December, 1943, issue of the Flower Grower carried its picture. It is really a large "ball" dahlia. Won several blue ribbons.....Plant 1.00

**ENCHANTRESS**—(S. C.) Color, deep gold overlaid rose. Good long, strong stem which holds the giant blooms high out of plant. Very prolific bloomer. Won many awards .....Root 1.00

**ELODIE K.** (S. C.) "Koenig," 1947. Bloom 5x3, bush 5½ ft. The color is a beautiful shrimp pink, with a yellowish cast at the center. Extra long strong stems carries the flower facing. The lacinated petals adds a great deal to its beauty. It scored over 85 in two trial grounds. One extra well known grower and judge, said "It is the most BEAUTIFUL dahlia I have EVER SEEN". The originator says he will stake his reputation on this dahlia; he can well afford to. It won the blue ribbon in nearly every place shown this season. On two Honor Rolls. Early and extra good bloomer.. .....Plant \$5.00

**EL RUBIO** (I. D.), "Redfern," 1940. Bloom 12x6, bush 5½ ft. A most beautiful rich, glowing, ruby red. A kingly flower carried high on long stems. Considered one of the very best of the far west. On Honor Roll. Another huge flower .....Root 1.25



**ESSIE SMITH** (S. C.), "Smith," 1945. Bloom 13x10; bush 5 ft. Color, a beautiful amaranth pink. Won two Achievement Medals; also won several blue ribbons as largest, best and most perfect bloom. A prominent dahlia judge said: "It was a sensation in every show it was exhibited in 1944. Strong cane-like stems. On ALL Honor Rolls.....Plant 2.00

**FIRE BALL** (I. D.), "Bissell." Bloom 8x4, bush 5 ft. Color, a brilliant scarlet, which does not burn or fade. An excellent red. The foliage is heavy and insect resisting .....Root .75

**FIVE STAR GENERAL** (F. D.), "Ramage-Ruschmohr," 1946. Bloom, 12x5; bush, 6 ft. Color, Amaranth pink, blushing into a tyrian pink and then going into a maize yellow toward the center. Very sturdy plant. Excellent foilage. Highest scoring dahlia in the Mid-West Trial Grounds in 1945, with a score of 86. On ALL three Honor Rolls. This is one of the VERY BEST. ....Plant 2.50

**FREDA GEORGE** (I. D.), "Australia," 1937. Bloom 9x5, bush 5 ft. This imported Informal Decorative from Australia reminds us of Opal in color, as it is a sulphury white tipped and suffused violet rose. It has strong erect stems, with well-proportioned, healthy foliage. A very attractive dahlia in the pastel shades. Honor Roll. Extra good .....Root 1.25

**FRIEDA GAYLORD** (Gaylord-Ballay, 1946). I. D. Bloom 12x7, Bush 5½ ft. Remarkable in size and vigor. A seedling of Miss San Francisco but better with more petals and more color as it is a rosy pink. ....Plant 2.50

**FLAMING GLORY** (I. D.), "Poulos," 1945. Bloom, 12x8; bush, 5 ft. Color, carmine overlaid rosaline purple; general effect, magenta. The originator calls it lavender-red. The white and purple striped petaloids enhance its beauty. Flowers are very high centered. Long cane stems. On ALL Honor Rolls....Plant 2.50

**GLAMOUR** (I. D.), "Salem Dahlia Gardens," 1939. Bloom 12x8, bush 5½ ft. An immense true purple with each petal deeply edged amaranth pink. As the bloom develops the petals fall back to the stem, giving it great depth. It has a perfectly straight and exceedingly stiff stem. Winner of the Achievement Medal. It won eleven firsts as largest bloom in the shows in the autumn of 1939 .....Root 1.25

**GEN. JOHN J. PERSHING** (I. F., Ward-Ruschmohr), 1945, Bloom 12x9, Bush 5½ ft. A sport of the well known dahlia Virginia Rute. Color coral and jasper red with a chrome flush. It plays between Informal Decorative and Semi-Cactus in form. A rugged grower, and well worth while, winning many prizes and the highest score at Storrs in 1944. ....Plant 2.00

**HILLSIDE SUNSET** (I. D.), "Bissell," 1939. Bloom 12x7, bush 5 ft. The color is gold and bronze with each petal edged with rose red, none of the edging extending over on to the face of the petal. Awarded a Certificate of Merit, from East Lansing and Fairmont, W. Va., also the Achievement Medal at Cleveland, and A. D. S. Medal for the largest and best bloom. Long, stiff stems Another giant.....Root 1.25

**HOOSIER MARVEL** (S. C.), "Wolfe," 1945. Bloom 14x7, bush 5½ ft. Color, a deep golden yellow; very much the same color as Lord of Autumn. Fine stem and center. It was by far the largest flower at East Lansing, where it won a Certificate of Merit. Good substance. Excellent root maker. Grand bush growth. On Honor Roll. It will be a great contender for the largest flower in show .....Root \$2.00, Plant 1.00

**HUNT'S VELVET WONDER** (I. D.), "Hunt-Burnett Bros.," 1935. Bloom 10x6, bush 5½ ft. This variety was given an American Home Achievement Medal in New York and won in Camden as the best seedling, arousing much interest. The flowers of deep rosy magenta blending into a true purple, are well proportioned with a large, dark green foliage.....Root .75

**INCANDESCENT** (I. D.), "Parrella," 1937. Bloom 11x5, bush 5½ ft. Color, rich rosy buff suffused yellow light old rose. Center, rich old rose, paling to light buff on outside of petals. High centered, well formed flowers. Blooms in great profusion. The huge blooms are held facing sideways on cane-like stems, well above the foliage ..... Root .50

**INDIAN GIANT** (I. D.), "Emmons," 1943. Bloom 12x6, bush 4 ft. Color, rich autumn; underlay of petals Indian yellow, overcast carmine. Center petals darker. Never was there more beautiful foliage on a dahlia. Stems very long, holding the mammoth blooms facing far beyond the plant. In the trial grounds at East Lansing, there were three blooms that measured 13½ inches. We have NEVER seen an open center. Good root maker. Won first wherever shown. Certificate of Merit. Won two Honor Rolls. Just a natural GIANT .....Root 1.00

**INDIAN SUMMER** (S. C.), "Goetzger," 1942. Bloom 10x5, Bush 5 ft. Golden yellow with soft orange suffusion. The bush is tall and rugged, with excellent foliage. Stems long, good for cutting. On Futurity and Honor Roll. Achievement Medal winner and certified at O.V.D.A. It is a beauty.....Root .75

**JANE COWL** (I. D.), "Downs." Blooms 10x6, bush 5½ ft. Immense blooms, deep and full of glistening bronze buff. The stems are long and stiff and straight. No dahlia has given more universal satisfaction than Jane Cowl, and no other has won so many prizes since it was introduced in 1928 .....Root .50

**JANE LAUSCHE** (S. C., Rocky River), 1945. A new color combination in a large dahlia. Rosy mauve with about one-third of each petal tipped white. Just about all the superlatives in the dictionary have been used to describe it. Winner of several "largest bloom" and "most perfect bloom" awards in it's first season. The plants are open, fast growers and produce blooms early, and in profusion until frost. A standout in the semi-cactus bi-color class. A Giant. ....Plant 1.75

**JEAN TRIMBEE** (S. C.), "Trimbee." Bloom 10x5, bush 5 ft. Massive, yet artistic, with long, revolute petals that curl and twist. The color is a beautiful petunia violet, making it popular as an exhibition dahlia. A tall, vigorous grower with long, erect stems.....Root .60

- JERSEY'S BEACON** (F. D.). As an exhibition flower, it has few equals in its color, but as a garden variety, it is even more spectacular. The color is Chinese scarlet, with a paler reverse, giving it a two-toned effect ..... Root .35
- KATIE-K** (I. D.), "Koenig," 1938. Bloom 11x6, bush 5½ ft. Color is a deep rose pink, with white veins in the petal that lighten the flower considerably. Scored a certificate of merit at both Storr's and East Lansing. was on all the 1938 Honor Rolls. It is a giant.....Root 1.00
- KING PETER** (F. D.), "Brown." Bloom 8x4, bush 5 ft. White tipped lavender. This is one of the most beautiful and delicately blended colored dahlias we have ever grown. Fine stems. Flower facing you. It was a great winner in the New York flower show in 1944. Won five blue ribbons.....Root 1.00
- KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD** (I. D.), "Brown-Wind," 1945. Bloom 12x5, bush 5 ft. Color, rich gold suffused apricot; a golden autumn. Excellent long stems. Early and profuse bloomer. Winner of "the most perfect large bloom" at East Liverpool in 1943. Won three certificates of Merit. On ALL Honor Rolls ..... Root 3.00
- L. C. K.** (S. C.) "Koenig," 1945. A beautiful Yellow-Autumn, straight cactus, averaging 5 inches, on long stems, that will give you an average of 50 blooms per plant each season. Certificate winner at both Storr's and East Lansing, under the name of Annabelle. Winner of Flower Grower award 1944 Ads Show, and we consider it the finest medium dahlia in existence. Plant 1.00
- LIDICE** (I. D.), "Kemp," 1943. Bloom 13x8, bush 6½ ft. A delicate cream yellow, shading to lemon yellow toward the center. It won the highest award given a seedling dahlia, at New York in 1942. It is an exceedingly fine grower. The long, strong stems hold the giant blooms high out of the foliage.....Root 1.50
- LORD OF AUTUMN** (I. D.), "Almy." Bush 4½ ft. The color is a deep golden yellow. The flowers grow to an enormous size and, without forcing, we had blooms the past season that measured over 13 inches across and nearly 9 inches in depth on long, stiff stems that held the flowers high above the foliage. The formation is wonderful, as the long petals recurve until the stem is hidden from view for 6 or 8 inches. This dahlia is a GIANT. It never fades or burns.....Root 1.00
- LYNN FONTANNE** (I. D.), "Parrella," 1941. Bloom 11x7, bush 5½ ft. Color, a scarlet or peach red. Wonderful strong stems. Won at two large shows and measured 13x9 at World's Fair A. D. S. Show, 1941. On two Honor Rolls.....Root 1.50
- LUCKY** (St. C., Schutte). A bright red cactus. Ideal for cut-flower work or exhibition. Blooms are held facing on stiff wiry stems. Starts blooming very early and continues to produce freely throughout the season. ....Plant 1.00
- MAFFIE** (S. C.), "Johnson," 1940. Bloom 13x8, bush 6 ft. Called the sensation of the season. Color intense bright red. A strong growing plant with insect resistant foliage. It won several blue ribbons as the largest and best flower in the 1939 shows, also Achievement Medal, and is on the House Beautiful Honor Roll of 1940. A MONSTER.....Root 1.50

**MME. C. JUSSIANT** (I. C.), "Nagels." Bloom 8x4, bush 4 ft. Soft violet inclined to lavender. The best Incurved Cactus in its color. A popular lavender cut flower for the florists, and also fine for exhibiting. Early and prolific.....Root .75

**MARION SMITH** (I. D.), "Australian," 1941. Bloom 12x7, bush 3 1/2 ft. This huge dahlia tyran pink overlaid mallow pink, making it nearly phlox pink. Blooms are clear bright and attractive, not even coarse. One of the very large ones. A must have Dahlia.....Root 1.25

**MARSHALL'S PINK** (F. D.). Bloom 8x4, bush 5 ft. An exquisitely beautiful shrimp pink dahlia, especially fine for cutting; stems at least three feet long.....Root .40

**MARY TAYLOR** (C.), "Taylor," 1940. Bloom 8x4. Color, grenadine pink with lemon-yellow center and flushed cream. This dahlia was the most outstanding at Storrs in 1939. Substance excellent, making it one of the best cut flowers. Fine stems.....Root 1.50

**MAYOR FRANK OTIS** (I. D.), "Salbach," 1939. Bloom 14x7, bush 5 ft. It is a soft, rich golden honey yellow with just a touch of coppery shading. It won two Achievement Medals, on two Honor Rolls, and won SIX blue ribbons in 1938 as largest flower in the show. It has been grown to OVER SEVENTEEN INCHES. There is no question but what this is one of the largest dahlias ever grown.....Root 1.00

**MICHAEL BLACK** (I. D.) "Phillips-Oakleigh," 1947. Bloom 12x6, bush 5 1/2 ft. Color is a velvety Reddish Purple, that does not fade. Strong stems which holds the blooms in an upright facing position at just the right angle. A good root maker. Achievement Medal; two Certificates of Merit, and on two Honor Rolls. .... Plant \$5.00 net, three for \$12.50

**MICHIGAN WHITE** (S. C.), "Keiser." Bloom 7x4, bush 5 ft. The most prolific blooming cut flower white to date. As many as 18 to 25 opening at one time have been produced on one bush. Will bloom from July until frost, continuously shooting out long stems by the dozen. Certified at Storrs and East Lansing. Excellent root maker. No better white cut flower.....Root 1.00

**MILTON J. CROSS** (I. D.), "Johnson," 1936. Bloom 11x7, bush 6 ft. Center of flower is a clear light lemon yellow shaded rose and coral on outer petals. Won three Achievement Medals. Not only large, but deep, and of a pleasing clean color.....Roots .85

**MISS SAN DIEGO** (I. C.), "Comstock," 1946. Bloom, 9x7; bush, 4 ft. Color, lemon yellow, outer half of bloom tyrian pink with thread-like markings of center florets tyrian pink. Extra long, straight stems. Won A.D.S. Achievement Medal at Inglewood, California, in 1944. On ALL Honor Rolls. One of the very best at East Lansing Trial Grounds. In fact, it is one of the finest incurved cactus we have seen for years. ....Root \$3.50, Plant 2.00

**MRS. E. J.** (St. C., Rocky River), 1946. A true type straight cactus of bright Tyrian pink. Centers distinctly white, and tips of the petals are very lightly tipped white. Petals are extremely firm and the flower is a very good keeper both on the plant and after cutting. Plant of medium height with strong laterals and stems which never bend. Size 6x3. Winner of three Certificates of Merit at trial grounds in 1945, with scores of 85, 85.3, and 85.8, for one of the highest average scores of the year. On Honor Roll. ....Plant 2.50

**MONARCH OF THE EAST** (I. D.), "Almy," 1938. Bloom 12x5, bush 4½ ft. Giant flowers of mustard yellow with an apricot suffusion. A rampant growing habit. An Honor Roll variety with a Certificate of Merit. Certainly is a giant. A Mr. Lee writes: "We had bloom after bloom on Monarch of the East that measured 12 to 14 inches".....Root .75

**MRS. C. D. ANDERSON** (Ball). A mammoth purple-quilled ball dahlia with a silver sheen that keeps for days in the show room. Flower almost round. An early and very prolific bloomer. No better ball dahlia....Root .35

**MRS. GEORGE LE BOUTILLIER** (I. D.), "Smith Ruschmohr." Bush 4 ft. A giant flower and, in our opinion, an improvement on Murphy's Masterpiece, and a very striking and showy plant in the garden. Color, deep crimson red. The blooms are exceptionally large and are held erect on long, stiff stems, high above the foliage .....Root .50

**MRS. I de VER WARNER** (F. D.) Bloom 9x5, bush 5 ft. Color, lavender. One of the finest dahlias grown. It is almost disease proof. No better cut flower.....Root .40

**MRS. THOMAS EDISON** (I. D.), "Wallace," 1942. Bloom 10x5, bush 5 ft. Color, a bright violet red, almost a deep rose red, with a silver reverse. Strong stems holding flower facing. One of the most beautiful dahlias. Certificate of Merit. On two Honor Rolls. ....Root 1.50

**MRS. HESTER A. PAPE** (I. D.), "Pape-Wind," 1946. Bloom, 12x6; bush, 4½ ft. Color, a reddish-purple; another says it is a pomegranate purple overlaid dahlia purple with a velvet sheen. Won the American Home Achievement Medal, at both Cleveland and Baltimore in 1945, and tied for this medal at East Liverpool. On ALL Honor Rolls. A very sturdy grower. A profuse bloomer. Will be hard to beat in any show. ....Plant 3.50

**NATION'S PRIDE** (I. D.), "Heil," 1944. Bloom 9½x6, bush 4½ ft. A beautiful blend of apricot suffused peach red and tyrian rose. Similar to Jane Cowl in form and Sunrays in growth. Rugged grower, strong erect stems, profuse and early. Won Achievement Medal at Pittsburgh. Certified at Storrs and one of the best of the large dahlias there this past season .....Plant 1.75

**OAKLEIGH MONARCH** (F. D.), "Hook," 1936. Exhibition type, cerise red in color. Blooms 10 to 14 inches. Heavy stem, with canes two or three feet long. Tough foliage and insect resistant. Height, six feet. Medium early bloomer. Blooms keep well when cut. Won a certificate at East Lansing.....Root 1.00

- OGDEN REID** (I. D.), "Kelley-Parella," 1945. Bloom 13x6, bush 6 ft. Color, spinel pink blended with rose pink and striping of yellow; center deep rose. Winner of several blue ribbons. Blooms held facing on cane-like stems. Vigorous plant growth. One bloom nearly 16 inches. On Honor Roll.....Root \$2.00, Plant 1.00
- PARTNER** (I. D.), "Robens-Dozier," 1946. Bloom 12x10, bush 4½ ft. Color, Peach buff with a trace of cameo. Has the very best of long stiff stems. This dahlia won five first and two special ribbons. Has been grown to nearly 13 inches. It is a real beauty and a GIANT. On Honor Roll. ....Plant 3.00
- PINK GIANT** (I. D.), "Holland," 1939. Bloom 10x6. Color, a vivid rose. Strong stem holds flower erect. It has been a great winner wherever shown. It won the Challenge Cup in Holland in 1939, which is their most coveted prize. On four Honor Rolls.....Root 1.00
- PREMIER'S MAJESTIC** (I. D.), "Swezey," 1938. Bloom 10x4, bush 5 ft. An informal decorative of a beautiful new color combination difficult to describe—salmon, gold and mulberry. A robust grower. Profuse bloomer of large, deep exhibition flowers. Stems cane-like. Foliage hard and insect resistant. This is the only dahlia that was a certificate winner at five Trial Gardens; this alone says it is one of the A-1's....Root .75
- PREMIER'S WINSOME** (I. D.), "Swezey," 1939. Blooms 11x6, bush 5 ft. Described by those who grew it as one of the best of the dahlias—nice form, substance, and excellent plant growth. Color, a beautiful mallow pink. Certified East Lansing, 1938.....Root 1.00
- PUNGIE** (Garfield, 1945), I. C. A large flower of the best cactus type, the petals of which are incurving like a huge mum. The size of the blooms is 9x7. The color of this dahlia is lilac, lightening to the center. Plants healthy, blooms are carried on good stems. Listed in the Flower Grower Honor Roll.....Plant 1.75
- PURPLE MIST** (F. D.), "Emmons," 1937. Bloom 10x5, bush 5 ft. A beautiful pure deep purple, tending to a shade of burgundy. The whole flower is covered with a bronze sheen. Extra long, stiff stems, holding the flower far beyond the foliage. It won a Certificate of Merit at the East Lansing Trial Gardens in 1935; also the American Home Achievement Medal. It was on three Honor Rolls. It is a prolific bloomer. A splendid cut flower.....Root 1.00
- QUEEN CITY** (F. D.), "Peck," 1936. A formal commercial type, of a scarlet pink color; excellent stem on long upright branches, starting from near ground; height of plant, 3 to 4 feet; a very early and continuous bloomer. American Home Achievement Medal. A remarkable cut flower variety.....Root .75
- RED CLOUD** (I. D.), "Emmons," 1940. Bloom 11x5, bush 6 ft. A rich brilliant crimson red, highlighted with flame. Reverse of petals rosy purple over silver. The ever-full center shows the purple reverse. The large blooms are held erect on very long, strong stems, facing. Naturally a tall robust grower. It has the best of substance and does not fade. Scored 85.5 E. at East Lansing (Michigan) Trial Grounds in 1939. We have NEVER had an open center, nor a bloom that hung its head ..... Plant 1.00

**RHYTHM** (I. C.), "Dahliadel," 1943. Bloom 10x6, bush 5½ ft. Color, cameo pink with soft lemon shadings at base of the petals and center of flower—really a Super Dahlia. Excellent form, very rugged and a good root maker. All who have seen it are enthusiastic. On three Honor Rolls. It is a beauty.....Plant 1.00

**RAY SMITH** S. C. (Max O. Scheffel), 1946. Semi-Cactus, lavender with white tips. Bush 5½ to 6 ft. Bloom 10x6 to 11x7 in. One of the cleanest growers, with straight, stiff stems and finest of foliage. Perfect centers, tight to the last. Good keeper. Twice, in 1944 and 1945, it won in the "Ray Smith Memorial Court of Honor" in Shows of the Dahlia Society of New Jersey; both times awarded American Dahlia Society Silver Medal Certificates. Also won a First in "Open to All" S. C. class at New York Show in 1944.....Plant 2.50

**ROBERT L. RIPLEY** (I. D.), "Salem," 1937. Rhodamine purple with deep rose pink suffusions throughout the entire bloom. It is immense in size. Ed. J. O'Keeffe, of Cold Spring, N. Y., one of the leading amateur growers of the United States, grew a bloom that measured 16x12. Stems are straight and strong. The bush is vigorous and grows to a height of five feet. ....Root 1.25

**SARETT'S PINK FLAMINGO** (S. C.), "Sarett," 1944. Bloom 10x6, bush 5½ ft. Color, a deep rose pink, shading lighter; yellow blend at base. Bloom has a fine center. Three Home Achievement Medals. Won Marshall Field's Gold Cup at Chicago Dahlia Show. On three Honor Rolls. One of the best.....Plant 1.50

**SATAN** (S. C.), "Ballay-Success." Bloom 10x5, bush 6 ft. Color, a bright flaming red with slight touch of gold at center. Horn-like petals which are perfectly rolled and incurved, giving unique form to the giant blooms. Honor Roll. Scored 87 at Storrs.....Root .75

**SILVER LADY** (F. D.), "Hillside," 1940. Bloom 10x6, bush 5 ft. Ivory white, lightly flushed and edged violet rose. Here is one of the most meritorious of the newer dahlias, and one of the most exquisite of alldahlias. It has been a great winner in the show room. A rugged bush. Long, strong stems. Certificate.....Root 1.00

**SNOWCREST** B. I. C. W. (Dahliadel). A white cactus of very fine form which will add zest to its class at the shows. Blooms are of medium size. Stems are ideal. Also a very free bloomer, producing many specimen blooms throughout the season.....Plant .75

**SHERWOOD'S PEACH** (I. D.) (Sherwood-Ruschmohr). This was the largest of the 1944 introductions in our plantings. Blooms have great depth and are carried facing side on cane-like stems. Plant growth is robust. Not an early bloomer but it is at its best for shows. Color is ocherous buff.....Root \$1.50, Plant 1.00

**STEPHEN FOSTER** (I. C.), "Salem," 1942. Bloom 12x6, bush 6½ ft. Buff orange and tyrian rose. It certainly is distinctive. Very hardy. It won FOUR Achievement Medals. It won as the best dahlia in the show, besides a large number of blue ribbons. It was on ALL HONOR ROLLS. This was one of the finest in our gardens (1944) .....Plant 1.00

**SKYROCKET** (St. C.) "Sarett," 1947. Bloom 12x6, bush 5½ ft. A striking scarlet bloom with a gold sheen, holds its color in the sun. Good substance. The stems are 14 to 16 inches, straight, slender and strong. A good root maker, and an early and continuous bloomer. The formation makes it a contender in the Perfect bloom competition. Winner of FOUR Achievement Medals. On ALL Honor Rolls. Plant \$7.50 net

**STALIN** (I. C.), "Zazo," 1943. A bright, velvety, non-fading red. Blooms eight to nine inches on excellent stems. Keeps well as a cut flower; having exceptional substance. We believe this will endure after many of the other 1943 introductions are forgotten. The plants are strong growers.....Plant 1.00

**TOPS** (I. D.), "Dozier," 1942. Bloom 12x7, bush 5 ft. A beautiful clear yellow, very much like California Idol in color. Fine formation. Extra long stems. Won several blue ribbons. Achievement Medal winner at Chicago. On ALL FOUR Honor Rolls. One of the best. A GIANT .....Root \$1.50, Plant 1.00

**TROJAN** (I. D.), "Salem," 1941. Bloom 12x7, bush 5 ft. Crimson red overlaid wax yellow. The petals twist somewhat. One of the giants. Many call it a super dahlia. Achievement Medal .....Root 1.00

**TOWN TOPIC** (F. D.). Large full flowers of purple, tipped white. Sometimes comes all purple. Either way, it's a winner .....Root .85

**TOP-FLIGHT** (S. C.), "Dozier," 1942. Eleven inch bright blood red of perfect formation, facing just right on extra long, strong stems. Most vigorous grower. Fade-proof in hottest summer on record. Gold Certificate of Merit at 1940 Washington Show. Achievement Medal winner at Boston, Wilmington and Richmond, and runner-up at Baltimore. \$25.00 cash award as best in show at Richmond. On all honor rolls. ....Root 2.00

**THE RANGER** (I. C.), "Salem," 1943. Bloom 8x4, bush 7 ft. True purple with white veins running the length of the petals and reverse of pure white, which shows as petals curl. Rugged and prolific.....Plant 2.00

**VICTORY** (F. D.), "Ruschmohr." Bloom 10x6, bush 4½ ft. Rose pink suffused gold. A real "knockout" for sheer beauty. Flowers keep well. Stem and bush growth excellent. One of the very best for high-class cut flower trade.....Root 1.00

**WAKE ISLAND** (I. D.), "Hulin," 1943. Bloom 11x5 bush 4½ ft. Color, velvet red with violet on the reverse. Good, stiff stems. Rugged grower. Won a large number of blue ribbons, and Sunset Medal.....Root 1.50



**WHIRLAWAY** (I. D.), "Pittman-Dahliadel," 1942. Bloom 11x6, bush 4½ ft. A clean shade of soft lemon yellow inclined to sulphur yellow. Grows nearly a foot across in field culture. Good stems, rugged bush, rich glossy green holly-like foliage, and a good root maker. Full of vitality. In the Futurity and on the Honor Rolls.

..... Root 1.50

**WM. R. SHINKFIELD** (I. D.), "Australia," 1942. Bloom 12x5, bush 5½ ft. A large exhibition dahlia of real Merit. A strong growing variety. Excellent stems. The color is a rich gold. Twisting petals show the peach reverse. This flower won as most perfect and largest at the Jackson Dahlia Show in 1944.

.....Root \$1.50, Plant 1.00

**WORLD'S EVENT** (I. D.), "Dixie," 1944. Bloom 11x8, bush 5½ ft. Color, amaranth pink, flushed with purple. Have very heavy centers. Has TWO certificates of Merit and is on all THREE Honor Rolls....Root

1.00

**YOUR LUCKY STAR** (C.), "American," 1939. Bloom 12x7, bush 5 ft. Amaranth pink with white center, the color immediately demands admiration. The formation is also striking, the regularly arranged quilled petals form a very nice straight cactus. The stems are ideal and hold the huge flower in perfect poise. On Honor Roll .....

Root 1.00

## Miniature Dahlias

**BABY ROYAL** (S. C.). A Gold Medal miniaure from England and one of the most outstanding prize winners so far introduced in this class, always winning the blue ribbon wherever exhibited. It is a beautiful little flower of salmon-pink and apricot with gold shading .....

Root .40

**BISHOP OF LLANDAFF**, "England." Bloom 3x1½, bush 4 ft. This is an unusual and attractive flower, petals being bright scarlet with a center of deep garnet. Foliage is lacy of a reddish bronze color. Wonderful for landscape effects and home arrangements. Very popular as a cut flower.....Root

.70

**CARLA** (Dahliadel 83C, 1934) Color is a buff, heavily shaded old rose and suffused violet rose, a rich contrast to the dark green foilage. Ideal in the garden and for arrangements. ....Root

.40

**FAIRY** (Miniature F. D.), "Bond," 1934. This dainty little dahlia is best described as a miniature Jersey's Beauty, it having the same lovely shade of pink with a slight suffusion of mauve. Perfect decorative, 2½ to 3 inches in diameter, with perfect stems.....Root

.40

**LITTLE DIAMOND** (S. C.), "Holland," 1939. Bloom 3½x2, bush 2½ ft. Color, violet rose with sulphur yellow at center. The most beautiful foreign miniature we have seen. Do not miss this one.....Root

.50

**MARKET JEWEL** (Min. S. C.), "Holland." Bloom 4x3, bush 3 ft. A beautiful shade of red. One of the very best. A profuse bloomer. Great in the show room..Root

.50

# Miniature Dahlias

(Continued)

<b>RICHARD TWYFORD</b> (S. C.), "Twyford," 1939. Bloom 3x2, bush 3 ft. A warm, lively orange. Extra long, wiry stems that hold the flowers far out of the foliage. A very profuse bloomer. Sometimes as many as twenty-five blooms out at once. It is one of the best for flower arrangements. It should be in every garden.	Root	.75
<b>ROYALTY</b> (Australia). Finest new lavender I have seen. Blooms 2 to 3 inches, held on fine stems. Prolific bloomer and good branches. Bush 2 to 3 feet high.	Root	.85
<b>SPRINGHILL ROSE</b> (F. D.), "Edison," 1942. A beautiful rose red, 2 to 3 inch blooms held on long, stiff stems and a prolific bloomer.	Root	.45
<b>SNOWSPRITE</b> (Min. S. C.), "Dahliadel." Bloom 3½x2, bush 3 ft. This glistening snow-white variety is unquestionably one of the best Miniatures grown. Blooms of fine constant form, held boldly above the foliage in marked profusion	Root	.50
<b>SYLVIA</b> (Lakeside F. D.). A winner! The most free-flowering garnet red miniature in commerce. Ideal for cutting. Won wherever shown.	Root	.45
<b>TARGET</b> (I. D.), "Heaphy," 1943. One of the finest orange shades and blooms, average 2 to 3 inches. Strong bush, free bloomer and long straight stiff stems.	Root	1.00

## Pom Pom Dahlias

The tiny little miniature ball dahlias, perfect in form, and not exceeding two inches in diameter. The bouquet dahlia which is growing in popularity daily.

<b>ACHILLES</b> —Flesh color to lavender.	\$	.35
<b>ANNA VON SCHWERIN</b> —Delicate shell pink.		.40
<b>CLOVER</b> —White edged soft pink. One of the smallest		.50
<b>JOE FETTE</b> —Pure white. Early.		.35
<b>LEMON DROP</b> —Yellow. Extra good.		.35
<b>MARY MUNN</b> —A fine lavender.		.40
<b>MORNING MIST</b> —White and lavender.		.40
<b>JOHNNIE PEPPIN</b> —The most perfect dark crimson.		.40
<b>ROSE WILMOUTH</b> —Fine rosy La France pink.		.40
<b>SHERRY</b> —Dark plum		.40
<b>PRIDE</b> —Very dark red.		.40
<b>YELLOW GEM</b> —Fine deep yellow.		.40

# Dahlia Plants

Each year our own plantings consist of over fifty per cent plants. We have found that if plants are started and grown properly, they will produce as good, if not better, results than roots.

Our way of shipping plants is slightly more expensive than some methods. Hardened plants are shipped in wood bands, packed in sturdy boxes, plenty moist to stand travel. We will appreciate being able to ship not less than four plants, per shipment. We positively guarantee safe arrival and will replace any damaged shipment, upon statement from carrier.

Have fun by starting right off with live green plants grown by KERR.

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## NOTICE

The size of the flowers and the height of the plants given in this catalog will vary in different locations. We give the approximate dimensions as they grew this last year in our gardens.

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**All orders of \$2.50 and above, prepaid; all under \$2.50 add 20c for postage and packing. In case the order is less than \$2.50, and the additional 20c is NOT included, we ship by express.**

# Special Offers

## No. 1

### SIX GIANTS

(Roots)

Commando, Mrs. Le Boutillier, Hunt's Velvet Wonder, Carl Dahl, California Idol, Monarch of the East. (Regular price, \$4.40.)

**For Only \$3.50**

## No. 2

### FOUR GREAT PRIZE WINNERS

(Roots)

Cal. Idol, Mrs. I. de Ver Warner, Robert Ripley, Darcy Sainsbury. Regular price, \$3.15.)

**For Only \$2.75**

## No. 3

### SEVEN OF THE BEST

(Roots)

Robert Ripley, Alice May, Lord of Autumn, Carl Dahl, Incandescent, Commando, Monarch of the East. (Regular price, \$6.50.)

**For Only \$5.00**

## No. 4

### EIGHT STARS FOR BEGINNER

(Roots)

Hunt's Velvet Wonder, Queen City, Jersey's Beacon, Monarch of the East, Mrs. Le Boutillier, California Idol, Mrs. I. de Ver Warner, Jane Cowl. (Regular price, \$4.65.)

**For Only \$3.50**

## No. 5

### SIX NEW TOP-NOTCHERS

(Plants)

Five Star General, Miss San Diego, Ogden Reid, Mrs. Hester A. Pape, Sarett's Pink Flamingo and Mrs. E. J. (Regular price, \$13.00.)

**For Only \$9.25**

## Extraordinary Offers

No. 6—Your choice of roots to the amount of \$12.50.

\$2.50 Extra Roots FREE

No. 7—Your choice of roots to the amount of \$15.00.

\$3.25 Extra Roots FREE

No. 8—Your choice of roots and plants, or either, to the amount of \$35.00.

\$8.00 Extra Roots or Plants FREE

No. 9—One plant each of Miss San Diego, Mrs. E. J., Bedford Beauty and Five Star General for only \$6.00.

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NOTICE: None of the **Special Offers** on page 17 can be used in the above.

### MID-WEST TRIAL GROUNDS

If you have a new Dahlia Seedling of merit, we recommend that you send it to the Mid-West Trial Grounds of The American Dahlia Society at Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich., Prof. C. E. Wildon, Supt. Write Prof. Wildon for blanks and information.

## Dahlia Seed

Every dahlia grower who grows "seedlings" will tell you his greatest thrill is "watching" the "new" dahlia coming in bloom. Every new dahlia will be different from any other known variety.

Dahlia seed planted in the spring will commence to bloom in August, and continue until frost. It is not unusual to have blooms 10 to 12 inches across.

New seedlings of merit, that have few faults, are readily salable at worthwhile prices.

The dahlia seed we offer is the same high quality that we plant and from which we obtain our outstanding introductions. This seed is grown in the finest location in the United States, where the seasons are the longest, and that is in the extreme Southwest.

There are NO small varieties grown within a radius of several miles. Only the very LARGEST varieties.

If you find that you have a good seedling, please write us about it.

**Fifty Dahlia Seed, \$2.75; 100 Dahlia Seed, \$5.00.**

# Dahlia Culture

**TIME.** The proper time to plant dahlias for exhibition purposes in this latitude is about the first of June. Of course, if one is not depending upon the shows, they can be planted as soon as the frost is over. In this climate we advise a succession of planting from May 10th to July 1st.

**PREPARING SOIL.** About one week or ten days before planting, spade your garden ten inches deep and leave it in the rough, then broadcast into soil to every 100 square feet or to approximately ten dahlia hills five pounds raw bonemeal mixed with two pounds of sulphate potash which should be raked into the soil thoroughly.

**PLANTING.** For exhibition flowers, dahlias should be planted at least three feet apart each way, that is, the large varieties, and two feet each way for the small kinds. Dig the holes at least six inches deep. Place the tuber horizontally in the bottom of the hole with the bud an inch or so from the stake. Cover the roots with about two inches of soil. As the plants grow the hole may be filled in by cultivating. -----

**PLANTING OF GREEN PLANTS.** Set out plants in late afternoon or on a cloudy day, removing pot from plant. Make sure that plant is planted deep enough and if the following day should be hot and sunny, suggest shading plant with a peach basket during the heat of the day. Fill hole gradually with dirt as plant grows.

**STAKING.** Five to six-foot stakes will be required to support tall growing varieties. The stakes should be set in at the time of planting. If you wait until later to drive in the stakes, much damage may be done to the roots of the plants.

**EXHIBITION BLOOMS.** To get large blooms you should disbud your plants. Leave only one stalk growing out of the ground. Let three sets of leaves appear and then pinch out the center or crown of the plant. Branches will appear at the base of each leaf. On these branches there will be three buds. Pinch out the two side buds, allowing the center one to develop. New branches will appear in the form of laterals between the leaves and stalk. Pinch out all these laterals below the remaining bud except the two nearest the main stalk. When your blooms are cut, these two laterals will develop into the next set of blooms.

**DIGGING.** After the first heavy frost, the tops of the plants will blacken and dry. A few days to a week after a frost the tops should be cut off and the clumps dug up. They should be carefully dried off in the sun for a few hours before being stored.

**STORAGE.** Store the tubers in boxes or barrels in a cool place. The best storage temperature is about 45 degrees Fahrenheit. The storage atmosphere should be moist enough to prevent excess drying of the roots and at the same time not so moist as to encourage mold or storage rots. If you have a very choice clump, wrap it in wax paper, such as comes around bread. You will find this will keep your roots almost perfect. It is just as good as dipping in paraffine.

## ORDER BLANK

## Kerr Dahlia Gardens

**392 N. Washington**

## Battle Creek, Mich.

Date , 1947

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Print or write plainly)

St. and No.  
or R.F.D.

City

## State

## When Ship

Am't Enclosed

Add 25c if wanted "Special Delivery"

Quantity

Name of Variety

Rt.	Pt.
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**Price**

Amount





# A Great Curiosity

is the

## Sacred Lily of India

(Amorphophallus Rivieri)

This is a great novelty flower and is curious, interesting and unique.

Planted in the garden when you plant your dahlias, it produces an attractive plant that suggests a small palm—a single stem that is mottled green and white with purple and reddish shadings.

There are three palm-like branches bearing numerous small, lacy leaves. When the top is killed by frost, dig the bulb and store as you do your dahlias.

When this bulb becomes four or five years old, it will throw up a large stalk, in February or March, bearing at the top a very large Calla-shaped bloom wine colored, ten to fourteen inches across, with a spadix that may be eighteen inches to two feet long. When this bulb blooms (it has a rather unpleasant odor) it requires no soil or moisture.

After the bulb once blooms, it continues to do so each year thereafter. Every bulb produces from two to five bulblets each year, besides growing to its normal size.

We never had any kind of a flower that attracted so much attention. Very few people ever saw anything like it.

Last Spring Bulblets, 25c each .....	six for \$1.00
One-year-old Bulbs .....	each .50
Two-year-old Bulbs .....	each 1.00
Three-year-old Bulbs .....	each 1.50
Four-year-old Bulbs .....	Out this season

### DAHLIA MAGAZINES

We recommend the following dahlia publications:

AMERICAN DAHLIA BULLETIN	
378 Penn Ave.,	Stearns Park, Freeport, L. I., N. Y.

### THE DAHLIA

12147 Harvard Avenue

Chicago, Illinois



# KERR DAHLIA GARDENS

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EXCEEDS ALL other flowers in the  
in variety of colors and formation